

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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For more information, contact:  
Mike Gowrylow  
(360) 486-2113

**Panel Created to Study State Tax Structure**

**OLYMPIA**, Wash., Oct. 8, 2001—The Washington Department of Revenue today announced appointments to an 11-member Tax Study Committee charged by the Washington State Legislature with determining how well the current tax system functions, and how it might be changed to better serve the citizens of the state in the 21st century.

The Legislature directed that the committee develop multiple alternatives that would increase harmony between Washington's tax system and those of bordering states, encourage commerce and business creation, and encourage home ownership. The committee must present its report to legislative fiscal committees by Nov. 30, 2002.

One of the appointments was made by Governor Gary Locke and four by legislative leadership of the House and Senate. Six others are academic scholars appointed by the Department of Revenue with legislative consultation.

The committee will conduct its first organizational meeting from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15 at the Doubletree Inn, 1840 Pacific Highway S., SeaTac.

Committee members include:

**John Beck**, Gonzaga University, School of Business Administration;

**Neil Bruce**, University of Washington, Chair of the Economics Department;

**Representative Jack Cairnes**, Republican from the 47<sup>th</sup> District; appointed by Representative Clyde Ballard, Republican Speaker of the House;

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**Senator Dow Constantine**, Democrat from the 34<sup>th</sup> District; appointed by Senator Sid Snyder, Majority Leader;

**Dick Conway**, principal of Dick Conway and Associates, a Seattle economic research and consulting firm;

**Bill Gates, Sr.**, Co-Chair and CEO, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; appointed by Governor Locke;

**Lily Kahng**, Seattle University, School of Law;

**Representative Jim McIntire**, Democrat from the 46<sup>th</sup> District in north Seattle; appointed by Representative Frank Chopp, Democratic Speaker of the House;

**Debra Sanders**, Washington State University, School of Accounting, Information Systems, and Business Law;

**Hugh Spitzer**, public finance attorney with Foster Pepper & Shefelman in Seattle and affiliate professor at the University of Washington Law School;

**Gary Strannigan**, Executive Director – Citizens for a Sound Economy; appointed by Senator James West, Senate Republican Leader;

The Department of Revenue also is creating an advisory group to provide advice and assistance to the Washington Tax Structure Committee. It will include representatives of business, state and local government, labor, taxpayers, and other advocacy groups.

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